UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24856
26 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 25 NOVEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

My Government welcomes the adoption of Security Council resolution 787 (1992) of 13 October 1992, hoping that this important document will provide the strict implementation of the sanctions imposed on the so-called "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia". It is our firm belief that the provisions of this resolution will sever the supply lines through which the sanctions have been breached so far and will eventually force the Serbian authorities to comply with both the letter and the spirit of all the relevant resolutions concerning their involvement in the aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the same time, we are concerned that the imposed naval blockade could bring to a halt all merchant traffic in the Adriatic Sea, including the routes towards the Croatian ports of Rijeka, Zadar, Split, Ploce and Dubrovnik. We fully understand the necessity of the adopted measures and we welcome the presence of the naval blockade of the "Yugoslav" coast and its ports. However, we stress that it is of utmost importance and urgency that the ships enforcing the blockade be issued the rules of engagement and that their theatre of operations be defined within precise geographical points. It is our opinion that all the relevant maritime authorities of the countries on the Adriatic Sea should be provided with this information, so that all the inbound and outbound traffic entering or exiting from their jurisdiction, or en route to some of the ports on their coast, could be informed of the presence of the naval blockade, the routes they have to follow in order to ensure the safety of maritime traffic, the documents the Masters of the vessels will be required to produce at the inspection and the position at which they can expect to be contacted and eventually inspected, etc. (e.g., as provided pursuant to Security Council resolution 670 (1990) of 25 September 1990 in the Maritime Advisory, No. 13, issued by the Commander of the United States Naval Forces Central Command concerning navigation in the Persian Gulf and towards the port of Aqaba, Jordan).

Therefore, we urge the States involved in the naval blockade to comply at the earliest possible date with the requirements of paragraph 14 of resolution 787 (1992), and consequently the Council itself to issue guidelines to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of this resolution. This would alleviate the concern of the Government of Croatia that delays in maritime traffic and in the loading and unloading of cargo in Croatian ports - upon which traffic the Croatian economy is highly dependent - will cause merchants to avoid sailing into the Adriatic Sea, thus causing irreparable damage to our maritime industry. One has to take into consideration that the burden of the hundreds of thousands of refugees Croatia is providing for is alleviated to a great extent by international humanitarian aid, part of which is being shipped by sea. Delay in those precious shipments would prolong the suffering of those people.

Croatia welcomes the adoption of resolution 787 (1992) and will fully comply with all its relevant provisions. The issuance of the above guidelines will ensure that other States of the Adriatic Sea, including the Republic of Croatia, will not suffer an economic decline due to the sanctions imposed upon another country. We are confident that the Council will safeguard the economic interests and development of all the States concerned, as well as uphold the security of the high seas and international maritime routes.

I would be grateful if you would provide for the circulation of this document as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative